

Tranopeltoides Wheeler, a Synonym of Crematogaster Lund (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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In 1922, the late Prof. W. M. Wheeler erected the Myrmecine ant genus *Tranopeltoides* upon the description of a damaged female, proposed earlier (1907) by Forel as *Tranopelta huberi*. In the same paper, Wheeler also described three additional species in the genus *Tranopeltoides*: *parvispina* upon a lone, mutilated female, *bolivianus*, and *peruvianus* each upon a single stray male specimen.

Upon carefully examining the group characters that separate the aforesaid species from *Tranopelta*, it was found that precisely the same distinctive features place them within the genus *Crematogaster*, of which *Tranopeltoides* becomes thus a new synonym. Details of the findings are discussed below under each species.

CREMATOGASTER Lund

Crematogaster Lund, 1831, Ann. Sci. Nat., 23: 132. Type: *Formica scutellaris* Olivier, 1791, by designation of Bingham, 1903.

Tranopeltoides Wheeler, 1922, Amer. Mus. Novit. n. 48, pp. 10-11. Type: *Tranopelta huberi* Forel, 1907, by original designation. NEW SYNONYMY.

Crematogaster huberi (Forel), new combination.

Tranopelta huberi Forel, 1907, Mitt. Naturhist. Mus. Hamburg, 24: 5 (female; Surinam).

Tranopeltoides huberi, Wheeler, 1922, Amer. Mus. Novit. n. 48, p. 11.

Neither Wheeler nor I have seen the holotype female of this species, which was already lacking the gaster when Forel first described her in 1907. Due to the fragmentary condition of the specimen it was, of course, impossible to ascertain whether the postpetiole articulated to the dorsal surface (the most obvious feature of *Crematogaster*) or at the anterior end of the gaster (the common condition in the subfamily Myrmicinae). Still,

two other characters contained in the original diagnosis, *viz.*, the presence of two epinotal spines and the peculiar shape of the petiolar node ("anterior slope of petiolar node gently rising antero-posteriorly in the form of a gradual inclined plane, broad behind, with convex sides, longer than broad, posteriorly with two blunt, tooth-like corners"—transl. by Wheeler, 1922) show that this damaged queen is doubtless a *Crematogaster*.

The species probably belongs to the *limata*-group and may represent a form already known under a different name in the worker caste. On account of the small size, the smooth mandibles and the longer scapes it is certainly not the female of *stolli*.

Crematogaster stolli Forel

Crematogaster stolli Forel, 1884, Bull. Soc. Vaud. Sci. Nat., 20: 373-375 (worker; Guatemala: Retaluleu).

Tranopeltoides parvispina Wheeler, 1922, Amer. Mus. Novit. n. 48, pp. 12-13, fig. 3 d (female; British Guiana: Kaieteur).
NEW SYNONYMY.

Tranopeltoides parvispina is nothing but the huge female of *Crematogaster stolli*. Dr. W. L. Brown, Jr., of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, kindly compared authentic *stolli* females, which I had sent him, with the *parvispina* holotype. Besides the more faded color of the latter specimen, he found no other noticeable difference. Wheeler, like Forel in the case of *huberi*, erred in the determination of the genus because his specimen lacked the postpetiole and gaster, on which the most striking *Crematogaster* characters can be found.

Crematogaster boliviana (Wheeler), new combination

Tranopeltoides bolivianus Wheeler, 1922, Amer. Mus. Novit. n. 48, pp. 13-14, fig. 3 a, b, c (male; Bolivia: San Firmino).

Two stray *Crematogaster* males from Anicohy and Amapari rivers, Amapá Territory, Brazil, collected by Prof. John Lane and deposited in my collection, completely agree with the description and figures of *bolivianus* and show that Wheeler, once more, failed to recognize the correct genus. Dr. Brown, at my

request, examined the type specimen and confirmed my suspicion. Due to its relatively large size, this specimen probably represents the still undescribed male of *stolli*.

Crematogaster peruviana (Wheeler), new combination

Tranopeltoides peruvianus Wheeler, 1922, Amer. Mus. Novit. n. 48, p. 14 (male; Peru: Callanga).

This species, also based on a single stray male, differs from the preceding species only in trivial characters. According to Dr. Brown (personal communication) "the differences between these forms listed by Wheeler either do not exist on the specimens at all, or else they are inconsequential. The antennal difference, which he emphasized, is incorrectly stated: the third through sixth funicular segments are about as long in *peruvianus* as in *bolivianus*, but in *peruvianus* they are a little thicker. If Wheeler had actually measured the segments, he would have seen this." I likewise suspect that this species is merely a variant of the former, both representing the male sex of *stolli*. The formal synonymy, however, must needs be based on better material, presently not available to me.